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Letter dated 14 January 2002 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing this letter to you concerning the atrocities committed during the Korean war (June 1950-July 1953) by the United States troops, of which information has been discovered recently in Sinchon county, South Hwanghae Province of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

On 14 November last year, remains of 59 people who had been massacred by the United States troops during their temporary occupation of Sinchon county throughout the Korean war and hundreds of their remains were newly unearthed at the foot of a mountain in the township of that county.

The remains were found from the depth of 40 centimetres from the surface of earth and in various positions; straight-lying and cross-lying bodies, bodies with foreheads down to the bottom of trench, bodies in sitting position, bodies with fingers that show writhing to dig out earth, etc. Among the remains are skulls bearing four traces of bullets and skulls bearing holes of a fist size showing that they were hit by a mass of iron or heavy stone, thus leaving few remains with intact skulls. Skulls with hoes and clamps stuck in them were also unearthed. In addition, skulls with holes of bullets which pierced through forehead and temple, remains showing clear traces that they were picked by axe and spade, crushed skulls buried together with big stones, indicating that they were beaten by big stones, broken arm and leg bones, showing that they were hit by iron stick or butt of rifle, were discovered. There was a considerable number of remains of which body and leg bones were discovered a few metres apart from the spot where their skulls were unearthed. This shows that the United States troops cold-bloodedly slaughtered innocent people by cutting their neck, waist and legs and buried them separately to cover up their crimes of atrocities.

The relics including cigarette holders, bundles of keys, shoehorns, cap-badge of high school, various buttons of clothes of different age, hairpins, etc., which were discovered along with the remains, prove that those killed were peaceful inhabitants.

The atrocities of the United States troops newly discovered this time in Sinchon county, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, after the publication in September 1999 of the mass killing by GIs of over 400 innocent population in July 1950 at Rogun-ri, Yongdong county of North Chungchong Province of south Korea are stirring up indignation not only of the entire Korean people but also of the international community.

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The United States troops occupied Sinchon county from 17 October to 7 December 1950. The then commander of the United States troops occupying Sinchon county, Lieutenant Harrison, saying "My order is law. Those who disobey the order will be shot to death at discretion", drove his GIs to mass killing and consequently, during the period of temporary occupation of less than two months, 35,383 innocent civilians, a quarter of the then total population of Sinchon county, were cruelly slaughtered in most inhumane ways.

As is widely known, the three-year-long Korean war of the past, which had been imposed by the United States, was a war of aggression that inflicted all forms of misery and sufferings upon the Korean people.

The atrocities committed by the United States troops during the Korean war exceed by far the crimes against humanity committed by Hitler of Germany and Tojo of Japan during the Second World War.

I wish to draw your attention to the fact that the atrocities committed by the United States troops during the Korean war represent the acts of crimes against humanity that deserve international denunciation and punishment in accordance with international law. I particularly emphasize that the Korean people possess the due right to strictly settle accounts with the atrocities of the United States troops.

What is more serious is that the United States troops veiled the aggressiveness of war under the cover of "United Nations Forces" and committed the crimes against humanity using the name of the United Nations.

The United Nations should bear due responsibility for this, and will have to thoroughly investigate criminal acts of the United States troops and take measures to prevent the recurrence of such crimes against humanity.

The United States troops in south Korea are not defenders of peace but aggressive forces, being the root cause of the division of Korea and all misfortunes of the Korean people.

The United Nations will have to adjust its mistaken past by retrieving its flag and name from the United States troops in south Korea as early as possible and recover its credibility.

I would be grateful if you should have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Pak** Gil Yon
Ambassador
Permanent Representative